

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 DAMASC 07807 201058Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /057 W
-----104727 201113Z /13

R 201006Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6078
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 7807

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SY SA
SUBJECT: ASSAD'S PENINSULA TOUR

1. IN DISCUSSION OF ASSAD'S DECEMBER 8-12 PENINSULA TOUR, PRESIDENT'S POLITICAL ADVISER DAOUDY COMMENTED DECEMBER 19 THAT THE SYRIANS FOUND THE SAUDIS APPREHENSIVE THE TRIPOLI CONFERENCE HAD BEEN DIRECTED AGAINST SAUDI INTERESTS. IN THE GULF STATES, THE SYRIANS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND A SIMILAR "JITTERINESS" THAT SYRIA MIGHT HAVE BEEN WORKING AT TRIPOLI TO SET UP A "PROGRESSIVE FRONT" SUCH AS NASSER HAD TRIED TO CREATE IN THE 1960S, WITH THE ARABIAN PENINSULA AS TARGET FOR SUBVERSION. ASSAD WENT TO CONSIDERABLE PAINS TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THIS WAS NOT SYRIA'S INTENT AT TRIPOLI AND HAD NOT BEEN RESULT OF THE CONFERENCE.

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2. THE SAUDIS, DAOUDY ASSERTED, WERE CURRENTLY SUPPORTIVE OF BOTH ASSAD AND SADAT. THEY AGREED WITH ASSAD IN CRITICIZING SADAT FOR HAVING TAKEN INITIATIVES DIVISIVE TO THE ARABS; AT THE SAME TIME RIYADH SYMPATHIZED WITH SADAT'S POSITION AND MADE CLEAR THEY INTENDED TO CONTINUE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EGYPT. HOWEVER, SAUDIS ALSO INDICATED THAT THEY WERE NOT READY TO GIVE SADAT A PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF MORAL SUPPORT

FOR THE CAIRO CONFERENCE FOR WHICH HE HAS SOUGHT.
IN DAOUDY'S OPINION, THE SMALLER GU
OUSTATES WILL MAIN-
TAIN APPROXIMATELY THE SAME POSITIONS AS RIYADH.
MURPHY

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 20-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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